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Appl. No. 10/624017
Atty. Docket No. PI24C2
Art Unit 1651
Customer No. 27752

FEB 15 2007

Filed 7/21/03
Inventor Davenport
Examiner Davis
Amd Dated 2/15/2007

REMARKS

Claims 23-36 are pending in the present application and have been appealed. Claims 1-22 have been previously canceled.

Request for Information Under 37 CFR § 1.105

Pursuant to an interview with the Examiner on December 8, 2006, the Applicants submit herewith the information requested by the Examiner regarding the use of high levels of fiber for treating hairballs.

In summary, during the interview, the Examiner gave the Applicants the opportunity to have certain claims allowed, or to have the prosecution re-opened and submit additional information for the Examiner to consider. The Applicants opted to have the Examiner request and consider additional information. The prosecution was re-opened, resulting in the Official Action mailed December 15, 2006, to which this submission is a reply.

The Applicants are required to cite and provide copies of all documents submitted for the Examiner's consideration, and to provide an explanation of that document's contribution to the description of the prior art.

The Applicants submit herewith, and attach hereto, to documents related to the statement in the Applicants' specification about which the Examiner requested additional information. The statement about which the Examiner requested additional information is found at page 1, last paragraph, and discusses that hairballs have been historically treated using diets and dietary supplements including high levels of fibers such as cellulose.

The first document is advertising copy from Hill's introducing their Science Diet Hairball Control™ formulas in 1999. As can be seen at page 1, on the pictures of the bags, it is stated that "natural vegetable fiber" is used. At page 2, fiber is included in the description of all three products. At page 5, it can be seen that fiber is included in each formulation. Finally, at page 6, all three formulations list powdered cellulose as an ingredient.

The second document is an announcement letter dated November 1, 1999, from Nutro® corporation announcing Nutro®'s Natural Choice Hairball Management Formula, with Nutro's "FiberCLEAN™" system. Page 1 of the letter indicates that the FiberCLEAN™

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Filed 7/21/03
 Inventor Davenport
 Examiner Davis
 And Dated 2/15/2007

system is used in the hairball management formulation. At page 3 "crude fiber" and oat fiber are disclosed in the formulation. At page 4, the letter discloses that the FiberCLEAN™ system uses high levels of oat fiber. Page 5 discloses, on the bag, a "unique fiber system". Page 6 lists the FiberCLEAN™ system.

Thus, the Applicants' statement in the background of the invention, that hairballs have been treated using diets and dietary supplements including high levels of fibers such as cellulose, was taken from the general knowledge of products marketed in the field prior to and at the time of the invention.

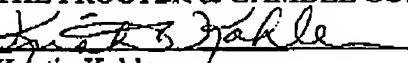
Conclusion

In light of the remarks and attachments presented herein, which provide a summary of the Examiner interview of December 8, 2006 and which supply the information requested by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 23-36 are allowable.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney for further discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

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February 15, 2007

Customer No. 27752